

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, families are overtaxed, businesses are overregulated, and our economy is suffering as a result. Clearly there is room within the enormous tax surplus to pay down the debt and fund priority programs while ensuring working families receive the tax relief they both need and deserve. Full, fair, and immediate tax relief has been and will continue to be one of my top priorities here in Congress.

The easiest thing to do in Washington is to increase spending. One of the hardest things to do is to reduce taxes. But thanks to the President's steadfast leadership, hardworking taxpayers will get the significant tax relief they deserve.

Already this session of Congress, the U.S. House has passed key tax relief proposals, including repeal of the death tax, marriage penalty tax relief, and the expansion of the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, our new President has been in the White House just over 100 days and already we have helped him to deliver this incredible tax relief package to the American people. This is not only a victory, it is a victory accomplished with incredible speed. Within this year, hardworking Americans across this Nation will be benefiting from more dollars in their pockets.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around us at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. Members of Congress and the public need to better understand the tremendous contribution the construction industry makes to our Nation's economy.

The value of construction put in place in the United States for the year 2000 was over \$800 billion, about 8.25 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives and to bring a pro-construction perspective to Congress, I believed it was necessary to start the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of Congress and staff on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction, to increasing access to training in the construction trades.

I urge all of my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus.

FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS NEED TO BE SPEEDED UP

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in this week's National Journal, Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, calls the number and length of FBI background checks "insane."

I read in Insight Magazine last week that only 55 nominees for sub-Cabinet positions have been confirmed out of 436 positions.

Paul Light of the Brookings Institution's Presidential Appointee Initiative was quoted as saying that the Bush administration will be "lucky" to have these positions filled by March 1 of next year.

In other words, the Bush administration, which is already being blamed for problems that started long before it came into office, will not really have its people in upper-level positions until well over a year after the President was sworn in. This is ridiculous.

Mr. Ornstein said most of the 1,250 top positions should have a simple, quick computer background check.

I read in the Knoxville News-Sentinel that even Senator Howard Baker who spent 18 years in the Senate and 2 years as chief of staff at the White House had to fill out a detailed 85-page questionnaire, one question of which was, "Have you ever been involved in a controversial issue?"

Mr. Speaker, this process has become ridiculously bureaucratic and needs to be greatly speeded up.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1000) to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in the State of Ohio, to authorize an exchange of land in connection with the historic site, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1000

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. EXCHANGE OF LANDS AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, OHIO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term "historic site" means the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio, established pursuant to Public Law 91-132 (83 Stat. 273; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Proposed Boundary Map, William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio," numbered 448/80,025, and dated November 2000.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) EXCHANGE.—The Secretary may acquire a parcel of real property consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Exchange Parcel (Outside Boundary)", in exchange for a parcel of real property, also consisting of less than one acre, which is depicted on the map as the "Current USA Ownership (Inside Boundary)".

(2) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the values of the parcels to be exchanged under paragraph (1) are not equal, the difference may be equalized by donation, payment using donated or appropriated funds, or the conveyance of additional land.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF BOUNDARY.—The Secretary shall revise the boundary of the historic site to reflect the exchange upon its completion.

(c) ADDITIONAL BOUNDARY REVISION AND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) INCLUSION OF PARCEL IN BOUNDARY.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the historic site is revised to include an additional parcel of real property, which is depicted on the map as the "Proposed Acquisition".

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire the parcel referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(e) ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—Any lands acquired under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of the historic site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1000, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), would authorize the Secretary of Interior to adjust the boundary of the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati, Ohio. This site commemorates the only man to serve as

President and Chief Justice of the United States.

Specifically, the legislation authorizes the Secretary to acquire a parcel of adjacent private property of less than one acre and exchange it for a parcel of National Park Service property of less than one acre located nearby. The transfer would be beneficial for the Taft site as it would allow the facility to sit on a more contiguous site and facilitate a more convenient parking facility.

In addition, the legislation authorizes a boundary expansion of the historic site by allowing for the acquisition of an additional parcel of property adjacent to the Taft site.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not controversial. It is supported by the majority and minority and the administration. At the proper time, I urge an "aye" vote on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, William Howard Taft served as the President of the United States from 1909 until 1913 and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1921 until his death in 1930. Taft is the only person to have served in both capacities. The Taft National Historic Site located in Cincinnati, Ohio, includes the house where Taft was born, restored to its original appearance, as well as exhibits on the former President's life and work.

H.R. 1000 authorizes the National Park Service to exchange a parcel of Federal land at the site for a parcel owned by a nearby charter school. If completed, the exchange will allow visitors to park closer to the Taft home and facilitate a planned expansion of the charter school.

In addition, the bill would alter the existing boundary on the Taft site to include another parcel of private property adjacent to the original Taft estate. The National Park Service has requested that the property be included within the boundary so that the land could be acquired if the owner ever decides to sell.

President Taft, we would all agree, is a significant figure in American history, and we join our colleagues and the administration in support of this legislation to improve the Taft historic site.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of the legislation before us today. H.R. 1000, legislation I introduced providing for an important land transfer and boundary adjustment for the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati.

I would like to thank my cosponsor and colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) whom I believe will speak in a moment. I would also like to thank the leadership of the committee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for her nice words and her help on this legislation as well as the committee staff that helped put this together and have brought H.R. 1000 to this point.

Mr. Speaker, William Howard Taft, as was noted, is the only person to have served as both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Family influence, a love for the law, and personal ambition propelled Will Taft into public service at a very young age. As Solicitor General, Governor of the Philippines, and Secretary of War, he represented our Nation well. He was then elected as the 27th President of the United States in 1908 by an electoral vote count of 2 to 1. His significant legacies from the Taft administration are still an important part of American life.

William Howard Taft realized a long-held dream in 1921 when President Warren Harding named him 10th Chief Justice of the United States. In fact, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will be interested to know that President Taft was so proud of his distinguished tenure as Chief Justice that he was once quoted as having said, "I don't remember having been President."

President Taft's boyhood home is located at 2038 Auburn Avenue in Cincinnati. He lived in the home from the time of his birth until 1886 when he married Helen Herron and embarked on a journey that led him to the White House and the highest court. This beautiful home where he grew up and much of the original property is now the William Howard Taft National Historic Site. It is administered by the National Park Service which has an excellent relationship with the greater Cincinnati community. There is a lot of community involvement in the birthplace. H.R. 1000 is commonsense legislation to enhance the cultural heritage of the beautiful Taft home.

The legislation provides for a simple land transfer between the Park Service and the SABIS International School of Cincinnati. This transfer is very important to the Taft home as it will bring the facility together on one contiguous site. Currently when visiting the Taft home or the education center that is next to it, visitors must park either on a very busy street or in a parking lot that is located away from the home at the other end of the block. The land the Park Service would receive in this transfer would allow for a more convenient and safer parking facility that

would help attract more visitors. It would also enable the Park Service to revert a portion of the area to green space which is how it would have appeared, of course, when young Will Taft was growing up in that home.

The transfer is also beneficial to the school. SABIS School likes this because it allows the two plots of land they own to be located directly across the street from each other. We have been working very closely with the members of the SABIS administration, Mr. Speaker; and I am pleased to say this morning that they are fully supportive of this land transfer.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of H.R. 1000 to the Federal Government will be at little or no cost depending on how the transfer of the lands are exchanged because the parcels of land are actually of equal value.

Finally, the bill expands the park's boundary to include a 40-unit apartment building. The owners of the building are fully supportive of being included within the boundary and have an excellent relationship themselves with the Park Service. They have worked closely with us and with the Park Service. In fact, the Park Service currently rents office space in the building and the facility's parking lot is already part of the historic site. In effect, Mr. Speaker, this boundary adjustment will give the Park Service an important right of first refusal should that building ever be put up for sale.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again the leadership of the committee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), and others, for helping us enhance the legacy of William Howard Taft. I very much appreciate their assistance in getting us to this point.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from North Carolina for yielding me this time. It has been an honor serving in the House with him. We both came at the same time. He is truly a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to join with my very good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), in sponsoring H.R. 1000, the William Howard Taft National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 2001. This legislation will enable the Department of Interior to complete a land transaction that will allow for more contiguous plots of land for President Taft's boyhood home in Cincinnati, Ohio and authorize the acquisition of

another parcel of land adjacent to the site.

The City of Cincinnati is very proud to be a steward of this national landmark and, as has been stated, the Taft historic site commemorates the birthplace of the only man who served as both President of the United States and as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and that is Cincinnati's son, William Howard Taft.

During his distinguished career, William Howard Taft served as a Federal judge, as President McKinley's appointee as Governor of the Philippines, as President Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of War, and in 1909 was sworn in as the 27th President of the United States. In 1921, President Warren Harding appointed him as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The House where President Taft was born has been restored to its original appearance and visitors to the site are treated to a tour of the home, including four period rooms that reflect family life during President Taft's boyhood. The home also includes educational exhibits highlighting the 27th President's life and career, and the Taft Education Center which houses classrooms for visiting school children.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of Americans enjoy visiting the William Howard Taft historic site each year. I would urge students of American history to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity when they visit our great city of Cincinnati sometime, we hope, in the near future. I want to again thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) who has been a great leader in this House on many other very, very important pieces of legislation for his hard work on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1000, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 37) to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability studies of 4 national historic trails and provide for possible additions to such trails, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 37

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVISION OF FEASIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDIES OF EXISTING NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS.

The National Trails System Act is amended by inserting after section 5 (16 U.S.C. 1244) the following new section:

“SEC. 5A. REVISION OF FEASIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDIES OF EXISTING TRAILS FOR POSSIBLE TRAIL EXPANSION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) ROUTE.—The term ‘route’ includes a trail segment commonly known as a cutoff.

“(B) SHARED ROUTE.—The term ‘shared route’ means a route that was a segment of more than one historic trail, including a route shared with an existing national historic trail.

“(2) STUDY REQUIREMENTS AND OBJECTIVES.—The study requirements and objectives specified in section 5(b) shall apply to a study required by this section. The study shall also assess the effect that designation of the studied route as a component of an existing national scenic trail or national historic trail may have on private property along the proposed route.

“(3) COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF STUDY.—A study listed in this section shall be completed and submitted to the Congress not later than three complete fiscal years from the date of the enactment of this section, or from the date of the enactment of the addition of the study to this section, whichever is later.

“(4) IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Upon completion of a study required by this section, if the Secretary conducting the study determines that a studied route is a feasible and suitable addition to the existing national scenic trail or national historic trail that was the subject of the study, the Secretary shall designate the route as a component of that national scenic trail or national historic trail. The Secretary shall publish notice of the designation in the Federal Register.

“(b) OREGON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

“(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall undertake a study of the routes of the Oregon Trail listed in paragraph (2) and generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Western Emigrant Trails 1830/1870’ and dated 1991/1993, and of such shared routes that the Secretary considers appropriate, to determine the feasibility and suitability of designation of one or more of the routes as components of the Oregon National Historic Trail.

“(2) COVERED ROUTES.—The routes to be studied under paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) Whitman Mission route.

“(B) Upper Columbia River.

“(C) Cowlitz River route.

“(D) Meek cutoff.

“(E) Free Emigrant Road.

“(F) North Alternate Oregon Trail.

“(G) Goodale’s cutoff.

“(H) North Side alternate route.

“(I) Cutoff to Barlow Road.

“(J) Naches Pass Trail.

“(c) PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall undertake a study of the approximately 20-mile southern alternative route of the Pony Express Trail from Wathena, Kansas, to Troy, Kansas, and such shared routes that the Secretary considers appropriate, to determine the feasibility and suitability of designation of one or more of the routes as components of the Pony Express National Historic Trail.

“(d) CALIFORNIA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

“(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall undertake a study of the Missouri

Valley, central, and western routes of the California Trail listed in paragraph (2) and generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Western Emigrant Trails 1830/1870’ and dated 1991/1993, and of such shared Missouri Valley, central, and western routes that the Secretary considers appropriate, to determine the feasibility and suitability of designation of one or more of the routes as components of the California National Historic Trail.

“(2) COVERED ROUTES.—The routes to be studied under paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) MISSOURI VALLEY ROUTES.—

“(i) Blue Mills–Independence Road.

“(ii) Westport Landing Road.

“(iii) Westport–Lawrence Road.

“(iv) Fort Leavenworth–Blue River route.

“(v) Road to Amazonia.

“(vi) Union Ferry Route.

“(vii) Old Wyoming–Nebraska City cutoff.

“(viii) Lower Plattsmouth Route.

“(ix) Lower Bellevue Route.

“(x) Woodbury cutoff.

“(xi) Blue Ridge cutoff.

“(xii) Westport Road.

“(xiii) Gum Springs–Fort Leavenworth route.

“(xiv) Atchison/Independence Creek routes.

“(xv) Fort Leavenworth–Kansas River route.

“(xvi) Nebraska City cutoff routes.

“(xvii) Minersville–Nebraska City Road.

“(xviii) Upper Plattsmouth route.

“(xix) Upper Bellevue route.

“(B) CENTRAL ROUTES.—

“(i) Cherokee Trail, including splits.

“(ii) Weber Canyon route of Hastings cutoff.

“(iii) Bishop Creek cutoff.

“(iv) McAuley cutoff.

“(v) Diamond Springs cutoff.

“(vi) Secret Pass.

“(vii) Greenhorn cutoff.

“(viii) Central Overland Trail.

“(C) WESTERN ROUTES.—

“(i) Bidwell–Bartleson route.

“(ii) Georgetown/Daguer Pass Trail.

“(iii) Big Trees Road.

“(iv) Grizzly Flat cutoff.

“(v) Nevada City Road.

“(vi) Yreka Trail.

“(vii) Henness Pass route.

“(viii) Johnson cutoff.

“(ix) Luther Pass Trail.

“(x) Volcano Road.

“(xi) Sacramento–Coloma Wagon Road.

“(xii) Burnett cutoff.

“(xiii) Placer County Road to Auburn.

“(e) MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

“(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall undertake a study of the routes of the Mormon Pioneer Trail listed in paragraph (2) and generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Western Emigrant Trails 1830/1870’ and dated 1991/1993, and of such shared routes that the Secretary considers appropriate, to determine the feasibility and suitability of designation of one or more of the routes as components of the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail.

“(2) COVERED ROUTES.—The routes to be studied under paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) 1846 Subsequent routes A and B (Lucas and Clarke Counties, Iowa).

“(B) 1856–57 Handcart route (Iowa City to Council Bluffs).

“(C) Keokuk route (Iowa).

“(D) 1847 Alternative Elkhorn and Loup River Crossings in Nebraska.

“(E) Fort Leavenworth Road; Ox Bow route and alternates in Kansas and Missouri (Oregon and California Trail routes used by Mormon emigrants).

“(F) 1850 Golden Pass Road in Utah.

“(f) SHARED CALIFORNIA AND OREGON TRAIL ROUTES.—

“(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall undertake a study of the shared